

Message Text

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SUBJ: LOPEZ STATE VISIT: DRAFT TEXT OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: STATE 195420

1. FOL IS SUGGESTED DRAFT TEXT OF PRES FORD'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

"IT IS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THIS STATE VISIT, THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, HIS EXCELLENCY, DR ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN, AND HIS WIFE, THE DISTINGUISHED FIRST LADY OF COLOMBIA, DONA CECILIA CABALLERO DE LOPEZ.

2. PRESIDENT LOPEZ IS NO STRANGER TO THIS COUNTRY. HE STUDIED HERE BRIEFLY AS A YOUNG MAN, AND -- IF I HAVE NOT BEEN MISINFORMED-- HE AND MRS. LOPEZ SPENT IZRT OF THEIR HONEYMOON IN WILLIAMSBURG. IN THE COURSE OF LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, HE HAS OVER THE YEARS VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN MANY CAPACITIES, PRIVATE AND OFFICAL -- A FEW YEARS AGO AS COLOMBIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MOST RECENTLY -- IN 1974-- AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER -- AND I WOULD LIKE TO THINK YOUR VISIT HERE HELPED, MR. PRESIDENT -- HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA BY ONE OF THE LARGEST VOTES IN COLOMBIA'S HISTORY. SO IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO WELCOME HIM ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME AS CHIEF OF STATE -- THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MY ADMINISTRATION.

3. PRESIDENT LOPEZ REPRESENTS A NATION WITH A LONG TRADITION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND A LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE
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UNITED STATES. HE HIMSELF -- LONG KNOWN AND RESPECTED THROUGHOUT

THE HEMISPHERE AS AN INTELLECTUAL, AUTHOR AND STATESMAN -- HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING PROBLEMS. HE HAS BEEN A CHAMPION OF THE IDEA THAT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MUST BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF RULE OF LAW, RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERVENTION. IN AN ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS IN NEW YORK IN JAN 1974 HE EXPLAINED HIS COUNTRY'S DEDICATION TO THE SEARCH FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM BASED ON STANDARDS OF LAW AND JUSTICE IN THESE WORDS, AND I QUOTE: "FOR A COUNTRY LIKE OURS...THERE IS ONLY ONE GUARANTEE FOR SURVIVAL: THE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, A DEEP SENSE OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF DETERMINATION OF NATIONS." AND HE ADDED: "ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE U.N. AND THE OAS, CAN ONLY PROSPER BY NOT TAKING SIDES. TIME AND AGAIN WE HAVE WITNESSED EPISODES THAT DEMONSTRATE THAT UNBIASED, IMPARTIAL DECISION-MAKING IS NOT THE GENERAL RULE...AS LONG AS CERTAIN QUESTIONS ARE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF LEGAL FINDINGS INSTEAD OF THROUGH THE OUTCOME OF VOTES BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE WELFARE OF MANKIND AND HUMAN SOLIDARITY, WHICH INSPIRED THE SAN FRANCISCO CHARTER, WILL PREVAIL OVER SELFISH PRESSURES AND SELF INTEREST."

4. YOUR VISIT, MR. PRESIDENT, IS TIMELY INDEED. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES, AND A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS JUST BEGUN WHICH WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH MAJOR PROBLEMS OF WORLD PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. THESE ARE CRUCIAL TESTS OF THE UN'S CAPACITY, AND INDEED OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD THEMSELVES, TO FIND PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS TO DEEP AND DIVISIVE PROBLEMS.

5. IN A FEW MONTHS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL GATHER IN NEW YORK TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR A CONSENSUS ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND CRITICAL NEGOTIATIONS IN HISTORY -- AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO DEVISE RULES TO GOVERN PEACEFULLY THE DOMAIN OF THE OCEANS, WHERE TRADITIONAL LAW HAS BEEN RENDERED OBSOLETE BY MODERN TECHNOLOGY. NO CURRENT INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION IS MORE VITAL FOR THE LONG TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF OUR GLOBE. IT IS AN AREA IN WHICH COLOMBIA HAS TAKEN A GREAT INTEREST AND A MAJOR ROLE.

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6. THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, TOO, IS IN THE PROCESS OF GREAT CHANGE. THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO REVISE AND MODERNIZE THE SYSTEM'S ORGANIZATION AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS. ALL OF US ARE RE-EXAMINING OUR CONCEPTS AND PREMISES, REASSESSING OUR ASPIRATIONS AND PROBLEMS. HERE TOO WE FACE A BROAD AGENDA OF ISSUES AND CHALLENGES THAT WILL TEST THE VITALITY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND WHAT IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE JUST AND PEACEFUL WORLD ORDER WE NEED.

7. IN A MYRIAD OTHER WAYS NATIONS OF THE WORLD FACE GREAT AND PRESSING ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY, IN THE CHALLENGES OF EXPLOSIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS.

8. THE WORLD, MR. PRESIDENT, IS AT A PIVOTAL MOMENT OF HISTORY. THE PRODUCTS OF MAN'S TECHNICAL GENIUS--WEAPONS OF INCALCULABLE POWER, A GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, INSTANTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS, A TECHNOLOGY THAT CONSUMES FINITE RESOURCES AT AN EVER EXPANDING RATE -- HAVE COMPRESSED THIS PLANET AND MULTIPLIED OUR CAPACITY TO AFFECT EACH OTHER. THE PROBLEMS OF PEACE, OF JUSTICE, OF HUMAN DIGNITY, OF HUNGER AND INFLATION AND POLLUTION, CAN NO LONGER BE RESOLVED ON A NATIONAL BASIS. ALL OF US ARE NOW CAUGHT UP IN THE TIDES OF WORLD EVENTS -- CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS, THE RICH AND THE POOR, THE MIGHTY AND THE WEAK.

9. WE ARE, IN A WORD, FACE TO FACE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL REALITY OF OUR TIME -- INTERDEPENDENCE. INTERDEPENDENCE IS NOT A THEORY OR A CHOICE, BUT A FACT, WHOSE CONSEQUENCES WE CANNOT ESCAPE. AND THE WORLD'S MOST BASIC TASK IS HOW TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THAT FACT. THE SIMPLE REALITY IS THAT EITHER WE JOIN TOGETHER TO SEEK PEACE AND JUSTICE AND TO MANAGE FORCES LOOSE IN THE WORLD, OR WE WILL MIRE DOWN IN AUTARCHY, VICIOUS COMPETITION, WASTE OF RESOURCES AND GROWING POLITICAL TENSIONS THAT CAN UNRAVEL THE FABRIC OF GLOBAL PEACE. THE WORLD IS LITERALLY POISED ON THE EVE OF EITHER A PERIOD OF GREAT CREATIVITY AND PROGRESS OR ONE OF ANARCHIC CHAOS.

10. IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT THESE REALITIES MAKE LATIN AMERICA AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ANY SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL SYSTEM. LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS WILL INCREASINGLY PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING SECTORS OF THE WORLD, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY THUS HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER THE MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION OF THESE GROUPS GLOBALLY. IF SOME EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONSHIPS HAS BECOME ESSENTIAL FOR WORLD STABILITY, THEN LATIN AMERICA, WITH A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS, MUST PROVIDE THE BRIDGE AND THE CONCEPTUAL MODELS.

11. IT IS MY CONVICTION, AS WELL, THAT, FOR THESE REASONS, RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES CAN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN STRUCTURING AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ORDER. IF WE, WITH ALL OF OUR HISTORY OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION, FAIL TO GRASP THE CONSEQUENCES OF INTERDEPENDENCE, IF WE CANNOT FIND IN THE MULTIPLICITY OF OUR TIES A SOURCE OF UNITY AND STRENGTH AND SOLUTIONS TO MUTUAL PROBLEMS, THEN PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD ARE DIM INDEED.

12. AND IN THIS SCHEME OF THINGS, I HAVE THE FURTHER CONVICTION, THAT COLOMBIA, WHICH OCCUPIES A RESPECTED AND UNIQUE PLACE IN THE COUNCILS OF HEMISPHERE NATIONS, HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A SINGULAR ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE. IF RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP DEMONSTRATE HOW TO HANDLE THE CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD, I AM CONVINCED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE A MODEL FOR THAT LARGER COOPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE WHICH MUST BE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL.

13. IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE REALITIES AND THESE CONVICTIONS THAT I INVITED PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND THAT IS WHY I SAY THAT HIS VISIT IS TIMELY INDEED. WE HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FRANK AND CANDID CONSULTATIONS. WE EXPECT TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY THE WHOLE RANGE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THEIR PROBABLE FUTURE COURSE; WE WILL REVIEW TOGETHER THE ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS OF CURRENT CONCERN IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND THE COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO THE AMERICAS IN THE FUTURE; AND WE WILL DISCUSS THE GENERAL AGENDA OF WORLD ISSUES THAT ARE OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE OF OUR HISTORY. I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ VISIT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND OUR MUTUAL SEARCH FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE GREAT ISSUES.

14. AND SO, AS WE SAY, MR. PRESIDENT, "ESTA EN SU CASA". END QUOTE.

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